

### Remarks

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the time afforded applicants' attorney, Stephen M. Hladik, during a telephonic interview, on May 12, 2004, in which a proposed Examiner's Amendment to claims 1, 6 and 12 was discussed. The Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed various proposed amendments and agreement was reached on certain language provided in the Examiner's amendment. In particular, applicants' attorney agreed to the amendment of the preamble of the claims. Applicants' attorney and the Examiner further discussed the novelty of the invention over Soell et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,923,900) and Papworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,584,037).

Although applicants reached agreement with respect to the preambles of their claims, other claim amendments were made in the Examiner's Amendment. Most of these amendments are acceptable to applicants, however, applicants are filing herewith an Amendment After Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 in order to address an inconsistency caused by the Examiner's Amendment.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 without withdrawing the application from issue. The amendments to each of claims 1, 6, and 12 address errors noted upon review of the Examiner's Amendment, which was mailed together with the Notice of Allowance.

The amendments to the claims hereinabove are made to correct an antecedent basis problem introduced by the replacement of "at least one process" with "processes" by the Examiner's Amendment in lines 3 and 6 of claim 1, lines 2 and 6 of claim 6, and lines 5 and 8 of claim 12. In particular, the current amendments restore the proper antecedent basis for the phrases "said at least one process" and "the at least one process," which are used throughout each of claims 1, 6, and 12. Therefore, it is believed that the amendments to the claims hereinabove merely embody the correction of formal matters. Applicants respectfully point out that the current amendments are consistent with the agreed-upon amendments to the preambles of these claims as well.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with applicants' attorney, please contact applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen M. Hladik". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stephen M. Hladik  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 55,270

Dated: July 20, 2004.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.  
5 Columbia Circle  
Albany, New York 12203-5160  
Telephone: (518) 452-5600  
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579